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One Quarantine System or Many?

The letter printed below suggests a question that is probably in the minds of many persons who read of inadequate and conflicting quarantine arrangements at Southern points directly menaced by the yellow fever:

"To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: We are now having another object lesson of the chaotic condition of quarantine law and enforcement throughout the country.

"When pestilence is at the door, the quarantin chain is no stronger than its weakest link; and too often, as we know by sad experience, the course o the local authorities is governed more by local selfishness and commercial greed than by any just consideration of the general good.

"Is not quarantine preeminently a Federal function? Is there constitutional objection to the as sumption by the United States Government o the entire work now performed, sometimes spiendidly, sometimes shamefully, by State authority? " NEW YORK, July 31.

By a progressive process of legislation during the last twenty-five or thirty years Congress has been asserting the right of the Federal Government to control the quarantine system of this nation, both as against foreign ports and as between one State and another.

The process is interesting and the progress significant. From 1799 to 1878 the sole Federal law on the subject consisted of statutes requiring the customs officers and other officers of the Federal Government to respect the State quarantine regulations, and to conform their actions thereto. For about eighty years the United States Government held this subordinate attitude toward the health authorities of the States.

Then, by the law of April 29, 1878, called "an act to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States," the Federal Government undertook a sort of supplementary and cooperative function with respect to quarantine. The Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service was charged with the execution of the provisions of the new law. But the law of 1878 provided that "there shall be no interference [by the United States quarantine officers] in any manner with ny quarantine laws or regulations as they now exist or may hereafter be adopted under State laws."

This act was repealed the next year in so far as it concerned the authority of the Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service, and a National Board of Health was established, which soon fell into desuetude through the failure of Congress to make the necessary appropriations.

But ten years later, in 1888, the year of the great epidemic of yellow fever at Jacksonville and elsewhere, Congress established seven national quarantine stations, on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, in addition to one already existing at Ship Island in the Gulf.

In March, 1890, a law was passed empowering the President, in time of danger, to make regulations to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious disease from one State or Territory into another. These regulations were to be enforced by United States officers exclusively. and nothing was said in this law to prevent interference with any State quarantine regulations which might conflict with the Federal operations.

Then at last came the general Federal quarantine law of 1893, "granting additional quarantine powers," and definitely asserting the supremacy of the United States Government both as to foreign and as to interstate quarantine. The final assertion of supremacy is found in this notable provision in Section 3:

"When said rules and regulations have been made, they shall be promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury and enforced by the sanitary authorities of the States and municipalities, when the States or municipal health authorities will undertake to execute and enforce them; but if the State or municipal authorities shall fall or refuse to enforce said rules and regulations, the President shall execute and enforce the same and adopt such measures as in his judgment shall be necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of such diseases and may detail or appoint officers for that purpose."

This brief survey of the progress of legislation answers our correspondent's questions. Is there any doubt that the United States Government can, if it pleases, establish and maintain a complete system of quarantine at every port and at every point on every State frontier, duplicating, and if necessary superseding and overriding, all State establish-

ments for quarantine? And how soon will this be expedient or necessary?

Politics in Cuba.

A correspondent writes us in general commendation of our recent Havana letters, but tells us that we seem to be unaware that the sole effort of Cuba's present Government is to perpetuate its control. We have been under the impression that the point was sufficiently brought out in the letters. While the following extract from the Lucha. a leading Havana daily, is written in the spirit of partizanship, and may perhaps be a little overdrawn for political purposes, it is indicative of the attitude of a considerable party, to which our correspondent apparently belongs. The Lucha Bavs:

"The prophecies made with the assent of all the people here who take an interest in public affairs, that the Government intended to disregard the law and the Constitution in order to perpetuate its ively, they were all of the third class.

own rule, are being fulfilled to the letter, but the

outcome as yet is not settled. " If it were not for the fear that an uprising would end in disaster to the independence of the country, the result of the extremes committed by the Government would be a revolution which would surely sweep the present administration away. " However rotten the Ayuntamiento at Vueltas

may be, or however bad that of Havana, the present campaign of 'purification' is simply temporary and political, and nobody thinks anything else of It. " in their hearts the Government officials have a terrible lust for power, and like petty characters would wreck the State ship before letting go. The

reason they give is that the opposition wants to loot he country and to erect a reign of official robbery and pillage, which it is their mission to stop at the cost of the institutions here, to establish which the revolution was supposed to have been carried on. A plea like this might carry weight if the Government were immaculate itself, but it is not, and the ntentions of some of its principal supporters are o well understood that the claim becomes ridicu "Cuba is not and cannot be divided into t

parties, in one of which all the thieves are congregated, while in the other are all the honest men. t would be a good thing if this were so, but it cannot be. The main and perhaps only difference between the new Mayor and the old in any of the ittle towns where the Government is substituting political friends for political enemies will be the uestion of party sympathies."

We neither indorse the views here expressed nor condemn them. We have no partizan interest in Cuban politics.

A Monroe Doctrine for the Baltic? It is reported, and apparently believed in Copenhagen, that Emperor WILLIAM'S visit to King CHRISTIAN has for its motive to secure the concurrence of Denmark with Germany, Sweden and Russia in declaration that the Baltic is a mare clausum, or closed sea, in the technical sense that while open at the option of its owners to the merchant vessels of all countries it must not be entered by the warships of any Powers except the four named. Would other Powers, Great Britain for example, submit to the declaration?

We might answer that question by putting another. Since the opening of the Suez Canal the Mediterranean has become the shortest channel of communication between Europe and the Far East: but before the completion of that waterway would Great Britain have brooked an attempt of the Powers possessing territory bordering on that pasin to proclaim it a mare clausum! The second question answers itself. For upward of two hundred years England combated the assumption that she could be barred out of the Mediterranean because Spain happened to dominate the Straits of Gibraltar or because other Powers happened to possess strategic and commercial coigns of vantage on the borders of that midland sea. She made good her claim to traverse that basin at will with warships as well as merchant vessels by many a naval victory and by the occupation at various times of Tangier, Minorca, Malta, the Ionian Isles and Cyprus, a list of acquisitions which has culminated in the exercise of a virtual protectorate over Egypt.

Interests of a cognate character, if not of equal magnitude, would impel her to resist with inflexible determination any attempt to circumscribe her right of free navigation in the Baltic. A concerted effort on the part of the so called Baltic Powers to exclude her from that sea would provoke her to reprisals, which might take the form of a portion of her cargo consisted of lumber re of one of the Danish islands the Sound, or of the Swedish island of Gothland, or perhaps of one of the Prussian islands off the coast of Pomerania. Having gained such stations for coaling and repair, the superiority of the British navy would render England as preponderant in the Ostsee as she is in the Atlantic, and the last state of the Baltic Powers would be worse than the first. Unquestionably, the Baltic is almost

as nearly a closed sea by nature as is the Black Sea or the Mediterranean. The channel by which it communicates with the North Sea runs between Denmark on the west and that southerly tip of Sweden on the east which used to be called Skania and which for centuries belonged to Denmark. That channel is divided into three passages, namely, the Sound, the Great Belt and the Little Belt, the last two of which run between Danish islands. When Denmark also held the Swedish mainland opposite she believed herself to have a natural right of ownership to the Baltic, and undertook to exclude therefrom at her discretion foreign vessels or to exact from them the payment of a toll. This claim was formulated and enforced as early as the thirteenth century, but in the following century the Hanseatic League defied it, took Copenhagen, subjected Denmark temporarily to a sort of vassalage and maintained its own ascendency in the Baltic for nearly three hundred years. On the decline of the Hanse towns the Danish Crown reasserted its pretensions to ownership of the Ostsee, and for some three centuries continued to levy, under the name of the Sound dues, a tribute upon all foreign vessels traversing the channel between the Baltic and the North Sea. Intermittent protests, which sometimes took the form of war, were made against this tribute, and finally in our own day we have been seen the Sound dues abolished. It is obvious, however, that if the four Baltic Powers were able to make good by force a declaration that the Baltic is a mare clausum they logically could not only bar out warships, but also reimpose the old Sound dues on the merchant vessels of all outside

countries. It is plain enough that even if Russia Sweden and Denmark should concur with Germany in the declaration said to be desired by Emperor WILLIAM they could not make it good by force against England's will. For the purpose of shutting out British warships Emperor WILLIAM would have to rely almost exclusively on the German fleet, for the assistance at present procurable from the three other Baltic Powers would be insignificant. Russia now has in the Baltic no first class battleship ready to take the sea, and although Sweden and Denmark had a year or two ago nine and seven battleships respect-

The fortifications on the Swedish and Danish shores of the Sound and the Danish works on the shores of the Great Belt are notoriously not such as could stop a fleet of modern first class battle-

It follows that even if Emperor WIL-LIAM could obtain the concurrence of the three other Baltic Powers his procamation that the Baltic must hereafter be treated as a mare clausum would be but sound and fury, signifying nothing. It would simply subject him to humiliation. There is not the least chance, however, of Denmark cooperating in such a foolish move. Denmark did not renounce the Sound dues in order to sanction the reassertion of the principle on which alone they were leviable, in the interest of another Power.

Called Back.

From our Lone Star contemporary the Tyler Democrat we hear, and are glad to hear, of our old acquaintance and singular good friend the Hon. ROGER OUABLES MILLS:

"There is talk of his entering the race for Governor. Col. Minas to a power on the rostrum. Should he and the Hos. Come Journou both be in the race and canvase the State, the compaign would be the most brilliant in the history of State politics. It would be a conflict of glants. But wouldn't that

It may not be especially joyful for the Hon. CONE JOHNSON, whose introduction into the giant class seems a little premature and may be resented. It would be joyful for Texas, though, and for the rest of the country. Mr. MILLS is a master of clear flashing speech. He puts all his weight into his blows. There are no reserves, saving clauses or loopholes of evasion in what he says.

Mr. MILLS retired from the Senate in 1899. He is believed to be successful in business. The Mammon of unrighteousness is thought to have been good to him. We hope so. It is well to see the veteran politician, poor and unstained after more than twenty-five years of public service, now boosted by kindly Fortune. Doubtless oil has softened Mr. MILLS's disposition, his public disposition, that is to say, of which perhaps a little excess of ruggedness and want of allowance for the honest opinions of others was the chief fault.

It must be admitted, however, that Fortune is at her old whimsies. So many men who thundered loud against wealth have had it poured upon them.

Well, if Mr. MILLS is forehanded enough to take a new hand in politics, he should be called back. There stands his old foe, the tariff, without a mark on it as yet, although it has been the Aunt Sally for so many eager throwers; and many Republicans are now howling and hurling at it. Is it invulnerable, beyond reach, not to be touched?

Mr. MILLS is but 73; in his prime; full of old knowledge and of youthful ardor. Can he keep out of "the shindy"?

The Hon. CONE JOHNSON should be content with second money.

The Canadian-Mexican Steamship Line.

The first ship of the new subsidized line between Canada and Mexico sailed last week from Halifax for Cuba and Mexican ports. She carried a few passengers and was heavily laden with the products of the Dominion. A notable

This is the result of an arrangement entered into some months ago by our northern and southern neighbors. Both countries contribute toward the maintenance of the line. Canadian investors have acquired a considerable interest in Mexico. Both countries are growing rapidly. Both are seeking new outlets for their products. With reference to the plan, the Toronto Globe commented last December as follows on the existing and potential trade between the two

countries: "Canadian trade returns show that in 1908 we mported \$37,268 of dutiable and \$88,818 of free roods from Mexico, a total of \$125,575, as increase of \$16,000 over 1902, and of \$78,000 over 1809. Our exports for 1908 totaled \$127,034, of which the chief items were: Manufactures of metal, \$46,422; ron and steel, \$44,368, including machines, \$18,301 manufactures of wood, \$20,075; lumber, \$10,842 mirits, \$16.614: manufactured cotton, \$16.867. There has been a rapid growth in the last few years, and should Mexico determine to give Canadian products a preference under her tariff, as a retaliator; measure against the United States, the opportunity would be given for capturing a much more extensive trade. Mexico should take from Canada coal pig iron, lumber, furniture, agricultural implements, wagons, fruit products, hams and bacon canned goods, salt fish and general merchandise and send in return raw sugar, coffee, makogany,

dye woods, fruit, hides and hemp." We wish our neighbors all success in their new enterprise. It is a narrow view to assume that it will be in any way detrimental to American interests. The richer and busier our neighbors get, the more will they buy from us.

The Wreck of the Old Maine.

About a year ago it was announced that a company of American speculators had obtained from the Cuban Government a concession for the raising of the wrecked battleship Maine from its bed in the mud and slime of Havana harbor. It is now reported that the project has been abandoned. During he time that has elapsed since the concession was granted the only work that has been done toward raising the Maine has consisted of efforts to get money with which to raise it. And the money did not come.

We still hold the opinion expressed when this project was announced. That is, that while the United States no doubt has a full legal right to leave the wreck where it is, an unsightly obstacle and nuisance in a foreign harbor, to be disposed of in any way which the Cubana may see fit to adopt in order to get rid of it, a measure of moral obligation rests upon the United States to see that the remains of the illfated vessel receive proper and fitting burial in the clean waters of the Gulf Stream.

Mr. HAMLIN GARLAND wanted to be ocked up in a dungeon cell in a Colorado town, there to meditate, accumulate local color and realism or naturalism or what-

in and forgot him; a much quicker oblivion than the author could reasonably expect. A condemned murderer in the next cell howled horribly and asked the mmured novelist what he was "in" for and how soon he was to be hanged by the neck. If this is a "press notice," it shows an invention that disarms suspicion. We must admit in ourselves a certain reluctance to give full faith and credit to the thundertorm that "shook" the dungeon. The thunderstorm is horror on horror's head. We are willing to believe that Mr. GABLAND was incarcerated for three hours, but it seems that he revenged himself by giving the warden a box of cigars. If the cigars were properly chosen, the warden has many more than three hours of misery coming to him.

A new excuse for not going to church has been invented in Connecticut. It is the automobile. "We are afraid to go abroad," says a woman who has not been to church for seven Sundays, "lest the awful thing should appear." Doubtless she will receive the thanks of multitudes for her ingenuity. She has got up some thing even better than the outworn prospect of rain pretext.

According to an Omaha despatch; the anti-Bryan Democrats of Nebraska, assisted financially by certain extra-Nebraskan Democratic bigwigs, are going to do dreadful things to the Peerless. A chain of twenty anti-Bryan newspapers will be made. Thus, while Mr. BRYAN is whirling around the world his home fences are to

be torn down by his relentless foes. Whether this despatch tells the truth or lies, it will make Mr. BRYAN and his friends chortle. Only a day or two ago the Wisconsin Democrats gave him a dinner. The Wisconsin member of the Democratic national committee nominated him for President in 1908; everybody yelled wildly.

Our Republican contemporary the Milwankes Sentinel speaks the words of truth and soberness when it says that "it is generally conceded that W. J. BETAN can have the nomination of his party in 1908 if he

The flavian gerardias sway
Their pannicles on the hillsides.
In brushy pastures; the cone flower
Riots in blasing profusion.

* Presently we shall again repose.

—Bard Bowlas's New Agazem Pastorsi. Yes; yes; you have earned repose. Bet-

ter take it now. Better not wait till September " Mediates the departing beauty. And with opaline hases softens
The hills and enchants the meadows.

Give the bard a rest!

We are indebted to the Melbourne Punch for one of the most comprehensive definitions of Socialism which we have yet encountered. An illustration shows a composite animal with a boar's head, an elehant's body and the wings of an angel, while its four legs are respectively those of a cave man, a wild ox, an eagle and a nondescript. The authorities depicted as studying the creature make the following com-

" First Authority-You will see, ladies and gen ts wings.
"Second Ditto—The animal is a devouring mon ster. No one can be mistaken with that head.
"Third Ditto—It is a ruinous brute. Observe
its body, which is that of a white elephant.

" And the people are still asking: 'What is it?" This animal is not peculiar to Australia.

The triumphal progress of the Hon. H. DINE Intellectually triumphal. Mr. DINE's incognito has been respected by the other sovereigns. He is not traveling for glory or

society. He is studying municipal owner ship. The Constitution raises its voice in criticism of Republican control at Washington and calls for a change.—Atlania Constitution.

THE POLICYHOLDER.

Call again.

Two Short and Pointed Suggestions In-

tended for His Beneat. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read "Policyholder's" communication about doing away with agents. While advertising helps, it is seldom sufficiently convincing

o make people insure.

Insuring one's life can be put off, and I im sure few would insure if left to themselves. even though invited by attractive adverisements. It needs a personality-an agent-

to make them act.
You might as well attempt to run a church without a minister and music as a life in-surance company without agents. No doubt some agents are paid too much. That is the fault of the management of companies. Reform in this respect and in office expense are things to be desired. The dividends would then be larger and cost of life insurance less. Dividends settle cost in a mutual AN OLD POLICYMOLDER. BANGOR, Me., July 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I think I see overwhelming reasons why the United States Government should go into the life insurance business; and I should be pleased to hear what is to be said to the contrary. What with reduced rates the Government could charge, the instant and constant popularity of life insurance with the strength of the whole people behind it, and its absolute nutuality, less than a century would elapse before every life insurance company now in existence in the country would be liquidated and its surplus distributed, the Government meanwhile receiving an enormous revenue over and above maximum death losses paid. NEW YORK, July 30. RADICAL.

Note From "Cinders" on the Revival of Walking TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In looking over THE SUN I came across this article, "Revival of Walking." I must admit that the writer was very kind to me, but he makes a big mistake when he writes that "Cinders" was several times dis qualified for lifting when in England. In all my years on the track I never received a caution, let alone being disqualified. I would like to see walking

The Double Affirmative, TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In your col-lection of queer English don't omit the up-Stater's "Yes! yes!" No matter what question you put which demands an affirmative answer or whether they wish to chime in with an agreeing voice, it is always the double "yes." Is it explainable? NEW YORE, July 31. IAGTHAGH.

Hot Weather Pastime a "danth" scrap book. I have now high til inches. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: I am collecting ELTRIA, Ohio, July 30.

No Reciprocity.

First Rattler-So that man was unsociable? Second Rattler-Very. 1 gave him a bite and e at once produced his flask; but he didn't ask me A FARCY About a Fad.

Would you be of the smart set Just draw upon your mint. And pony up a thousand To see yourself in print. Magnificent the binding. The best that art can make:

The cake? Nay, say the doughnut There isn't any doubt Tis built, like that confection

THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-MENT AND LIFE INSURANCE. tion.

From the North American Review for August. Without awaiting the recognition of Congressional enactment or executive order, insurance, through the agencies of steam and electricity, has nationalized itself. It has overleaped territorial boundaries and outgrown the supervisory power of the individual States, and President Roosevelt, therefore, only recognized an established economic condition rather than a constitutional theory when, in his last message to Congress, he said:

The business of insurance vitally affects a great mass of the people of the United States, and is lational and not local in its application. It involves a multitude of transactions among the people of the different States, and between American companies and foreign Governments. I urge that the Con grass carefully consider whether the power of the Bureau of Corporations cannot constitutionally be extended to cover interstate transactions in More recently in discussing the unhappy

Company, which have so strongly emphasized the necessity of a single supervisory power, the President again said forcibly, although unofficially: It seems to me that what has occurred to Equitable Life furnishes another argument for

fective supervision by the national Government, great insurance corporations, which do an inter There are peculiar reasons why insurance

should be submitted to strict governmental supervision. Its success depends upon a multiplicity of contracts in order to establish a safe average, and even when conducted on the mutual plan, as distinguished from a joint stock company, such multiplicity (in the case of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York over 600,-00 policyholders) necessarily makes it impossible for the policyholders to exercise any but an indirect control over the affairs of the company. Moreover, many of the contracts are conditioned upon the death of one of the contracting parties, and it is eminently proper that the State should supervise the faithful execution of the contract by the surviving party. The business requires such special knowledge that few, if any, have the training necessary to conduct it wisely. The expectancy of life must be determined scientifically. The earning power of money must be determined in advance by able economists. The investment of enormous accumulations of assets requires financial skill and experience of the highest order. The intricate mathematical calculations require exceptional actuarial skill. An infinitesimal fractional variance in such calculations may mark the difference between a sound proposition and an illusory scheme. The collapse of so many fraternal assessment societies shows the danger to the public of unregulated insurance, and, as the public can have neither the knowledge nor the aptitude to solve for itself these intricate questions, reasonable governmental supervision is not only desirable, but imperative. Almost every civilized country has appreciated this necessity, and, in almost all, the insurance department is a bureau of the de-

partment of commerce. The United States is the only Government in which such power is decentralized and permitted to remain in a constituent

While many States have admirable insurance departments, against whose conduct no just complaint can be made, vet in others arbitrary power over foreign com-panies has at times degenerated, as arbitrary power is apt to do, into impudent demands that are little better than official blackmail. The burden of expense has, in many instances, exceeded all legitimate bounds. In the year 1902 twenty-eight States received from insurance companies, exclusive of property taxes, over \$5,000,000 in excess of the cost of such supervision. One single State is said to have collected han the Federal Government requires to examine all the national banks in the country; and this unnecessary burden, aggregating each year \$10,000,000, ultimately falls upon the policyholder and is imposed not upon a money making, but a money saving enterprise, whose lofty purposes and beneficent results ought to relieve it of any form of license taxation. A tax upon the moral obligation of insurance is little better than a tax on morality. It burdens the policyholder in the recognition of a moral duty to safeguard those dependent upon him from the injurious consequences of his death. It is certainly a tax on thrift. The arbitrary expenses of inquisitorial examinations, which too often rest, as to amount, in the discretion of an insurance superintendent, is a form of Turkish satrapy which is utterly at varance with the spirit of our institutions. For nearly half a century the insurance companies have vainly protested against the intolerable burden of such vassalage to many masters, and they naturally welcome the declaration of President Roosevelt that the time has come for the Federal Government to assume the duty of supervising this important and beneficent instrumentality of

The difficulty is a legal rather than an economic one. Few reasonable men differ with respect to the advantage of having one central supervising authority rather many, and the Federal regulation of insurance would have come to pass many years ago but for the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Paul vs. Virginia, in the year 1868. The validity of a State statute requiring foreign insurance companies to obtain a license as a prerequisite to business was there in question. and its constitutionality was challenged on the ground that such an act was inconsistent with the Federal powers to regulate commerce. The Court, speaking by Mr. Justice Field, held that

Issuing a policy of insurance is not a transaction of commerce. • • • These contracts are not articles of commerce in any proper meaning of the word. . . Such contracts are not interstate transactions, though the parties may be domiciled in different States. The policies do not take effect are not executed contracts-until delivered by the agent of Virginia. They are then legal trans-actions and are governed by the local law.

This decision excited widespread interest. and has been freely criticized for many years by leading constitutional lawyers; but as recently as the year 1901, in the case of Nutting vs. Massachusetts, the Court reaffirmed the doctrine, but in somewhat more guarded language, for Mr. Justice Gray, speaking for it, said:

A State has the undoubted power to prohibit foreign insurance companies from making contracts of insurance, marine or otherwise, within its limits, except upon such conditions as the State Apparently, Mr. Justice Gray,

weighed his words with exceptional care, contemplated the possibility that, in some phases, interstate insurance transactions might be a part of interstate commerce, and therefore beyond the power of the State to injure or destroy; but unfortunately he failed to explain the meaning of his

qualification.

A more successful attempt to impair its authority was made, a year later, in the so-called lottery cases, which were argued three times, and not finally decided until

February, 1903. By a vote of five to four the Supreme Court finally sustained the validity of the Federal act, and distinctly held that a lottery ticket was an article of commerce. It is significant that, although the opinion of the minority Justices referred at length to Paul vs. Virginia, and subsequent cases, as inconsistent with the decision of the Court, the opinion of the majority made no attempt to suggest a logical distinction between a policy of insurance and a lottery ticket; and it may be fairly contended, therefore, until the Supreme Court declares otherwise that the lottery cases have overruled Paul vs., Virginia, at least to the extent that the former case held that a policy of insurance could

not be a subject of commerce.

The Supreme Court has never had occasion to consider the validity of a Federal statute to regulate insurance. All previous decisions were predicated upon State statutes; and if the Dryden bill should become a law and its validity be questioned, the Supreme Court will be assisted in recognizing Federal authority not only by its more recent decision in the lottery cases, difficulties in the Equitable Life Insurance but also by the fact that, since their decision in Paul vs. Virginia, Congress and the Executive department have recognized by legislation and Executive declaration the Federal nature of insurance. Unquestionably, neither Congress nor the Executive can enlarge the constitutional domain of government by a mere declaration, but the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that it will pay great respect to any declaration of coordinate branches of the Government as to what is an article of commerce.

No attempt, moreover, has been made to sustain a Federal insurance law under any other express clause of the Constitution. The national banks are private enterprises. and are connected with the Federal fiscal system by a very slender thread, and yet their constitutionality has been sustained. I think it would be possible to draft a law which would require insurance companies to serve the fiscal purposes of the Government to such an extent as would bring them within the scope of Federal power. Insurance is but a form of cooperative banking, and by enlarging its purposes the end referred to might be attained.

If, however, Congress is without present power under the Constitution, then the serious question presents itself whether the evil to be remedied is not of sufficient magnitude to justify a constitutional amendment. Personally, I think it is. Conditions have arisen of which the framers of the Constitution had no conception whatever. An amendment should be passed, if necessary, to regulate insurance, the importance of which can be measured by the fact that, as an institution, it collects more money each year than the Government itself, disburses more than the receipts of all the custom houses, and administers an accumulated treasure greater than all the money now in circulation in this country or the entire capital of our national banks.

From Bench and Bar. Proceedings to remove a Judge for moral infitness properly involve a moral, not a political issue.

The political issue does not arise until the

Legislature has betrayed the constitutional trust reposed in it, by failing or refusing to act upon adequate evidence of unfitn The people can, if they choose, elect a Legislature who will efface the Hooker blot from the bench. The people will choose.

The "twice in jeopardy" inhibition does not apply to proceedings to remove a Judge. The statute of limitations does not run against revelations of moral unfitness. We venture to repeat, therefore, to Mr.

Justice Hooker and his political backers that his removal from office is inevitable. State elections are frequent in New York.

The Sabway Air.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Fever is going to be stimulated in New York if the subway is allowed to pump the foul sewer and water gas air from it up into the streets in the ten foot air tubes with electric fans. They are putting these do, to fill up the volds of dead air left by the con

ways.

All private owners of buildings have to extend vent pipes above the buildings, but the subway is pumping foul air into the streets. If the subway is a sample of public ownership, it is the worst blow that notion ever got. But, in fact, the subways are the property of the operating company, for it will never turn them over to the city, as will be shown when the supposed with the city the company cannot be compelled to turn them over to the city unless the city takes

action at once to take possession.

However, keep out fevers by stopping this com pany pumping air up in pipes or tubes only a few feet high. Make the company cement about the pipes and fill the voids.

A. TROMAS. NEW YORK, July 29.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your corre spondent "T." in to-day's Sun thinks that the ex-posed iron in the subway is a "primal fact in the matter of the subway heat."

Now, the subway heat is produced from two

cources—the conversion of a great part of the electric energy into heat, and the emanation from the bodies of the employees and passengers. The greater the conductivity of the enclosing structure of the subway the quicker this heat will be removed to the surrounding earth. Consequently, if the subway was built entirely of iron it would be cooler than it is now with its walls principally of concrete and brick, both poor conductors of heat. C. E. NEW YORK, July 28.

A Beformer's Fishing Scales.

From the Boston Record.

Charlie Bartlett told a neat one at the Lancers' dinner, at the expense of another member of the har, name not given, but identified as "the reformer. on his fishing trips, and consequently there was no disputing his stories as concerned the weight of the catch. One summer when the reformer was in the Rangeley region a baby was born in locality and the reformer's steelyards were called into requisition to weigh the child. And according to the reformed steelyards and Bartlett that kid weighed 42 pounds 6 ounces.

His Sage Counsel.

From the Allania Constitution.

"I been thinkin' 'bout gittin' married," said a member of his flock to Brother Williams. "You reckon I could git a marriage license fer a dosen "I reckon you could," replied Brother Williams.

But my wholesome advice ter you is ter eat de Victorian Is Now an Abusive Term. The superior persons have found a new gibe.
They have gone one better than their used up "provinical." "suburban" and "parochial," and

Cruelty to Animals.

low condemn as "victorian" any one who is in the

Miss Frog-Why in tears?
Miss Turtle—A horrid boy carved the date on
my back so I can't keep my age a secret.

A Lay View.

Johnny-Pa, what is the vermiform appendix? Pa—The walking delegate—doesn't do any work itself, but orders the strike.

The North American Review for August is thoroughly cosmopolitan. The question of maritime responsibility in war time is discussed by an American, an Englishman, a Frenchman and a German, while a Norwegian and a Swede give the two sides of the Scandinavian trouble. Mr. Oscar S. Straus treats of the relations between Russia and the United States, and there are articles on Irish rep-resentation, on Crete and on the struggle for the Califate. Domestic affairs cover life insurance, the anthracite coel industry and the negro. There is a poem by Margaret Sherwood.

WOOD WORDS Criticism and Commentary on the Forest

Dietlenary TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: With all deference to Forester Pinchot, I must flie a caveat or so as to some of his definitions and derivations. "Sapling" is one of them. Your sapling is not to be gaged by height, but by condition. That is to say, it must be young enough to be made up mainly of sap wood, with hardly an appreciable amount less than breast high, which had bare rime In common parlance where land is cleared the rail timber, board timber, poles and saw logs. Of these any one may be lacking save only the underbrush and saplings. A sapling gets out of that class, strictly speaking, then the stump shows heart wood o breadth than the ring of sap wood around it. Hickory saplings in thick woods, and growing on rich ground, are often thirty feet in height before they are six inches through at the butt. The name belonge properly in the same class as "yearling," "castling," "weanling," and is, like them, obviously derived from conditio

but the "device made from the fork of a tree, on which the front end of a log is placed," is a "lizard"—nothing more or less—by this same token. A "lizard" it has been since pioneer days, when every manner of building logs were hauled in by help of it. If the logs lay unhandily, as at the bottom of a steep slope, or on marshy ground, they were snaked out" to firm and level ground by help of a rope or chain. And the bolster, the heavy, weight carrying cross timber, is not by any means peculiar to the log sled er to logging. Every stanch and apringless farm wagon carries its bed between standards set in the rocking bolster, which rests above the axle. The rocking bolster is held in place by the coupling pin only, and thue in a measure takes up the jar of heavy loads.

"To chunk," meaning to clear the ground. no doubt comes down from pioneer times. Clearing then was a matter of several year—the settler half out down underbruak in August, then threw down the big trees, of some parts of them in full leaf, relling them so the lop of them came as much as possible together. When all had got bone dry, along in the fall, he set fire to the mass, and next spring dropped corn, beans and pumphins here and there in the clearest spots, oultivating them with the hoe. Next fall he gathered up all the movable chunks, piled and burned them. The spring after he had some little plow land, which by repeated chunking came at length to be a field. Another way was to cut merely the small trees and deaden big ones—in which case the chunking and log rolling kept up throughout a good many years.

"Doty," "dosy," idoated are all cerruptions of the English forcet word "detard," applied to trees beginning to die, and especially those dying at the top. Any forest roll will show a reckoning of so many sound oaks, so many pollarded, deprived of the poll or top, and so many dotard, that is to say, past prime, and to be cut. From the traes themselves the word extended easily to a certain decayed condition of timber. A tree "doated at the heart does not show black rot there, but a sort of crumply palior nearly allied to fox fire, the phos a "lizard"—nothing more or less—by this same token. A "lizard" it has been since

The "alligator" boat is all right enough,

smoke, and a rather acrid smail. It never makes good coals, and there is little strength in its ashes.

The "cat faces" of my experience were oftener the results of wind shakes than of fire. They showed as big rough crimbes, rather dead looking, in the bark, and were sure indices of timber that was brash and warping, impossible to rive true, and hardly worth splitting into anything but firewood. Still, the word may well have another application, as pretty nearly all words peculiar to outdoor work have a knack of having. If the dictionary does not include "spring-pole" it ought to—it is hard to conceive of log hauling without that very present help. For the springpole is a stout sappling whose notched but is caught and twisted in the fastened log chain after the chain is about the load, then the tip lashed stoutly down so as to hold the chain taut. Thus the logs cannot slip either backward, forward or sidewise, and the springpole, like a giant bow, justifies its name.

I wonder will this dictionary set forth the difference between "blazing" a line and "obopping" it. The "blaze," you see, goes through the hard bark into the light, and very near the sap. Hence it shows white and marks a trail more clearly. But the "chop," two light notches in the outer bark alone, will endure while the tree stands, whereas the "blaze" is in time overgrown and exceed. Hence line trees, marking boundarish, needs must be chopped rather than blazed.

Whatever it holds or lacks, success to the loggers' dictionary.

MARTHA MCCULLOGE-WILLOGE-W

The dictionary of logging terms defines "springpole" as (1) "a springy pole attached to the tongue of a logging sled and passing over the roll and under the beam, for holding the weight of the tongue off the houses' crosscut saw, so that one man can use it instead of two." It defines "lizard" as a "dray," that is, "a single sled used in dragging logs. One end of the log rests upon the sled. Synonyms: Bob, crotch, sled, go-devil, scoot, skidding sled, sleep,

CONSPIRACY AT KUSTENDJE.

its Place in the Confused Elements of the Near Eastern Situation. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There is something surprising in the news from Rumania that a plot against the life of the Sultan and arms hidden in the houses of Turks, had been discovered at Kustendje. It is the first time that the rank and file of the Turkish people have been known to harbor a conspiracy against the Padishah and Calif. and it must cause corresponding anxiety at Yildis Kiosk, never free from care of some

kind.
Those Turks who have taken part in the plot are, in all likelihood, some of the emi-grants from the part of Bulgaria that was given to Rumania after the war of 1877 to Asia Minor, induced by the Sultan's prot of land and subsistence if they would the shelter of the infidel flag. After robbed by the Sultan's officials of what means they had taken with them, and deceived in the promises made, many of them returned o Rumania, wiser for their experie sadder for the loss of wives and children by starvation and disease. That they should fall in wish the young Turkish revolutioners agents, who are said to have been very active of late, seems quite natural. The report therefore is probably true and at the same time exceptionally interesting, for it proves that under certain conditions even the provention.

time exceptionally interesting, for it proves that under certain conditions even the proventially phlegmatic Turk can be moved to action.

What the unexpected movement among the Sultan's coreligionists is going to lead up to must be left to time to tell. Should the succession to the Bword of Othersa, whenever it occurs, take place without disorder, and the next Sultan surround himself with honest advisers instead of sycophants and police, the new element that is forming in Turkey would be a source of atrength and perhaps save the situation for a time. Huesdepends on the slution of the Austro-Hungarian difficulty, which has now entered on the final phase before action of some kind must be taken by one side or the other. Should it eventuate in trouble, which, however, seems improbable, the opportunity will come for Bulgaria to assert its hegemony in the Balkans. This would have to be done in defiance of Germany and Russia, and cortainly of Austria, but if backed by Oreas Britain as is likely, it may be attempted. For this reason the approaching visit of Prince Ferdinand to London is ef particular interest, as, unless there are matrimonial suggestion in it, it can have only a political significance, coming so soon after that a few months age when he received the decoration of the Grand Cross of the Bath.

Should there be anything in the coaspiracy unearthed at Kustendje, and more than a matter of private and family interest in Prince Ferdinand's visit to England, there would appear to be some motive in the intended Baltic cruise of the British Channel and Farticular Service squadrons. Prince Ferdinand's visit to England, there would appear to be some motive in the intended Baltic cruise of the British Channel and Farticular Service squadrons. Prince Ferdinand is decidedly a persona non orase at Berlin and anything that would dissurb Kaiser Wilhelm's plans at Constantinople and his friend and ally, Abdul Hamid final will certainly be opposed in Germany. The material then for a very exciting situation is central Eur

Letter Seven Years on the Way.

From the Gresham Record.

That the Government is allow but sure is evidenced by the fact that Grandma Jones has just received a letter from Miss Minnle Royer mailed at a post office in southern Oregon seven years ago. Miss Royer, who is now a resident of Gresham, remembers writing the letter while visiting friends in the southern part of the State. The envelope it has been so long on the road cannot be sold.